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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 9 September 1952

SUBJECT Developments at Maxhuette, Unterwellenborn

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PLACE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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A. Experiments with low cupola furnaces

1. As of 1 April 1952, a 24% increase in the production of pig iron has been called for. This increase is intended to offset the loss of production at Eisenhüttenkombinat West, Calbe, VVB EFW, caused by breakdowns and the failure of experiments with low cupola furnaces.

2. Experiments with low cupola furnaces and native ores at Calbe have been abandoned and the plant is to revert to conventional production methods. Future production will be supervised by technicians sent from Unterwellenborn.

3. Experiments will be continued, however, at Unterwellenborn itself. There is at the moment one experimental furnace with a total capacity of 120 tons. Research is under the supervision of Professor Seuberlich[1] of Unterwellenborn and Professor Rammingen of Lauchhammer. The Five-Year-Plan provides for the construction of five low cupola furnaces at Unterwellenborn, but these will not be built until the efficiency of the system has been established.

B. Raw materials for smelting.

1. The following iron ores are used:

a. Kamsdorf light brown: 9 - 14% Fe, 6 - 1% Mn

b. Kamsdorf medium brown: 12 - 24% Fe, 0.8 - 1.5% Mn

c. Wittmansgereuth siderite: 22 - 35% Fe

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d. Schmiedefeld siderite: 20 - 40% Fe

2. All the limestone required is supplied by the Unterwellenborn limestone works at Oepiz, close to Poessneck. (M 57/273).

3. Smelting coke is supplied from Poland and Czechoslovakia. Approximately thirty freight cars arrive daily from each source.

C. Blast Furnaces.

1. There are at present four furnaces with an average daily output of 1,280 tons made up as follows:

Furnace No: 1 210 tons

Furnace No: 2 320 tons

Furnace No: 3 310 tons

Furnace No: 4 430 tons [2]

2. An automatic charging plant now under construction is due for completion in November 1952. A "Kruppremn" sintering plant is also being built.

3. The lack of phosphates and manganese represent the main shortages in the supply of crude materials. A considerable quantity of manganese is required for the furnaces. The Polish coke used has a very high sulphur content (1.8 - 3%).

D. Steel works.

1. The following types of steel are produced:

a. Basic steel

b. Plain carbon - manganese steels

c. Ball bearing steels

d. Rus proof chromium - nickel steels

2. The monthly capacity has been between 3,500 and 4,000 tons, according to whether liquid or solid charges are used.

E. Rolling mill.

1. The maxium annual capacity for rolled products is 420,000 tons. Steel plates and billets for rolling are also received from Stahl - und Walzwerk, Hennigsdorf and Riesa.

2. The percentages of rejects [redacted] were: 50X1-HUM

Railroad lines - 42%

Other rolled products - 29%

F. Slag wool plant.

The average [3] production [redacted] was 200 tons. 50X1-HUM
The entire output is exported to Czechoslovakia in exchange for coke.

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[redacted]

2. [redacted] Comment: This column, a breakdown of the daily output of 1,280, totals 1,270.

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3. [redacted] Comment: The period of time for which the 200 tons is the average production is not specified.